



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

In this issue:

- » **Update from the IAA Network Leads**
- » **Legislative Update and Bills of Interest, March 12, 2009**
- » **Excerpt from Afterschool Ambassador Loras Osterhaus Presentation to the Joint Senate/House Education Appropriations Subcommittee**
- » **Afterschool Funding Opportunities in the Federal Stimulus**
- » **New Resource from the Finance Project**
- » **Technical Assistance: Accessing Federal Stimulus Funding Through Collaboration with Workforce Training Programs**
- » **Program Spotlight: YouthBuild**
- » **Be a Part of a Global Movement!**
- » **UC Irvine Professor Provides Resources on Afterschool programs**
- » **Upcoming Professional Development, Events and Funding Opportunities**

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Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings Afterschool Supporters!

It has been a couple of busy months for afterschool in Iowa. Just recently, the Before and After School Grants were released by the Iowa Department of Education. We would like to congratulate the programs that received grants this year. The Before and After School Grants are an important resource for increasing access to vital afterschool programs across the state. A primary focus of our legislative efforts this session is on maintaining this funding for next year – while making sure that our legislators understand that demand for the funds greatly exceeds the funding available.

On the national level, some members of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance staff and Board recently returned from a national convening of afterschool networks in Clearwater, Florida. This annual conference is an important event for the IAA. This year, those present attended workshops on such issues as afterschool funding opportunities in the national economic stimulus package, messaging afterschool with various stakeholder groups, and current research on quality afterschool and how to support them in our state. Throughout the year as the network builds upon these new ideas and strategies, be on the lookout for updated resources and information that you can use as a local advocate for afterschool programs and policy.

Finally, we would like to thank you for being an outspoken member of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance. Especially in tough economic times, it is important that leaders making decisions for our communities recognize and understand the significant role afterschool programs play in the lives of our children, youth, and families. Thank you for your continued support for Iowa's afterschool programs. Keep up the good work!



Sincerely,

Brooke Findley and Michelle Rich

Iowa Afterschool Alliance Network Leads

Legislative Update and Bills of Interest, March 12, 2009

Breakfast Success

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance legislative breakfast was held on February 12, 2009, at the State Capitol. The breakfast was a resounding success with over fifty legislators attending the breakfast to visit with afterschool providers, children that participate in programs, and the staff and board members of the IAA. Legislators commented on how much they appreciate the afterschool programs in their communities and thanked the Alliance for their work.

Budget

Now that the first funnel has passed, much of the focus at the Statehouse is on the budget for state fiscal year 2010. The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) plans a meeting on March 20th to release their updated projection of state revenues. The REC report will drive the budget discussion for the remainder of the session. The budget talks will be in full swing for the remainder of session and it is imperative that IAA members be ready to contact their representative and senator about the importance of afterschool funding.

The IAA continues to attend the Education Appropriations Subcommittee meetings and visit with subcommittee members about the importance of afterschool programs statewide. As the budget is debated and tensions rise over funding, it will be necessary for IAA members to visit with their local elected officials and members of key committees about the importance of afterschool programming in their community.

To Learn More about the Iowa General Assembly and Your Legislators, please visit the Iowa General Assembly website. Click on "legislators" to find your legislator or learn more about the committees on which they serve. The website also has many great resources, including information on how a bill becomes a law and bill search tools.

The following is a list of bills IAA members may be interested in. Please follow the hyperlink provided for full text of the bill:

Junior Entrepreneur Training Assistance [HF 659](#)

A bill for an act creating a junior entrepreneur training assistance program and providing a tax deduction and making an appropriation.

Task Force to Study Ninth Grade Academies [HF 650](#)

A bill for an act providing for the establishment of a task force to study ninth grade academies and making an appropriation.

Task Force for Student Identification of Career Paths and Interests [HF 645](#)

A bill for an act providing for the establishment of a task force to study measures to encourage elementary and middle school students to identify early career paths and interests and making an appropriation.

Minimum Hours of Instructional Time [SF 386](#)

An act relating to the minimum hours of instructional time in a school day for school districts, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools and including an effective date and applicability provision.

Research and Development Pre-K Through Grade 12 [HF 565](#)

A bill for an act providing for a state research and development prekindergarten through grade twelve school.

State Child Care Advisory Council [HF 562](#) (formerly [HF 383](#))

An act relating to the state child care advisory council.

Transportation Levy [HF 516](#)

A bill for an act providing for a transportation levy for certain school districts.

Space for Academic, Enrichment, Cultural, and Recreational Activities [HF 511](#)

An act allowing school districts to utilize attendance centers to provide academic, enrichment, cultural, or recreational activities to children during noninstructional hours.

Unclaimed Lottery Money to Before and After School Grant Program [HF 510](#)

An act appropriating unclaimed lottery prize money for the before and after school grant program.

Education Appropriations [SSB 1279](#)

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the Department for the Blind, the Department of Education, and the state board of regents, and providing for related matters.

Transportation Foundation Aid Reimbursement [SF 256](#)

An act providing qualifying school districts with transportation foundation aid reimbursement.

Financial Literacy and Educational Standards [HF 368](#)

An act adding personal finance skills and financial literacy requirements to the educational standards for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools.

Adding Requirements for Financial Literacy [HF 376](#)

An act adding personal finance skills and financial literacy requirements to the education programs school districts and accredited nonpublic schools must offer.



Instructional Support Property Tax Levy [SF 163](#)

An act exempting the instructional support property tax levy of a school district from being collected as part of the incremental taxes paid to a municipality for an urban renewal area and providing for the Act's applicability.

Transportation Assistance Aid [HF 312](#)

An act requiring the school budget review committee to grant transportation assistance aid to school districts under certain circumstances and providing a statutory appropriation.

[HF 594](#) is a related (but not identical) bill.

School Districts Affected by Disasters and Budget Enrollments [HF 270](#)

An act allowing school districts affected by disaster in 2008 to use the previous year's budget enrollments in the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, and providing an effective date.

Task Force to Reorganize School Districts [HF 265](#)

An act providing for the establishment of a task force to study a renewed effort to reorganize school districts.

Establishment of a Task Force for an Online School [SSB 1197](#)

A study bill for an act establishing a task force to develop a plan for the implementation of an online school for certain populations.

[HF 284](#) is a similar bill.

Reading and Math Proficiency [HF 94](#)

An act requiring the state board of education to define student proficiency in mathematics and reading.

School District Reorganization [SF 360](#) (formerly [SSB 1101](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the accreditation of school districts and nonpublic schools and the reorganization of school districts.

Assessment System of Academic Growth [SF 36](#)

An act establishing a value-added assessment system to calculate annually the academic growth of students enrolled in school districts at grade levels three through eleven.

Transportation Assistance [HF 71](#)

An act authorizing the School Budget Review Committee to provide transportation assistance to certain school districts and providing an appropriation.

Hours of Instructional School Time [HF 26](#)

An Act relating to the minimum hours of instructional school time in a school year for grades one through twelve for school districts, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools, and providing an effective date.

School District Dropout Funding [HF 282](#) (formerly [HSB 3](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of school district programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention.



Youth Development Collaboration [SSB 1004](#)

A study bill for an act creating an Iowa collaboration for youth development council and state of Iowa youth advisory council in the department of human rights.

[HF 315](#) (formerly [HSB 8](#)) is a companion bill to SSB 1004.



Statewide Writing Assessment [SF 359](#) (formerly [SSB 1016](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the establishment and implementation of a statewide writing assessment for public school students in grades three, six, and ten.

[HSB 24](#) is a similar bill.

[HSB 39](#) is a similar bill.

Parental Involvement Grant Program [HF 7](#)

This bill establishes a parental involvement grant program to provide competitive grants to school districts that substantially involve parents and guardians in efforts to improve the academic achievement of at-risk and minority student subgroups at any or all grade levels from prekindergarten through grade 12.

Compulsory School Attendance (Ending) Age [HF 259](#) (formerly [HF 40](#) and [HSB 38](#))

A study bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. This bill raises the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 17. The bill requires each school district to take every effort to prevent students from dropping out of school, and to align and maximize funding streams that may be used to support students who have the potential to drop out of school. [SF 17](#) is a similar bill.

Compulsory School Attendance (Starting) Age [SF 6](#)

This bill lowers the compulsory school attendance age from age six to age five. The bill makes a number of conforming changes, including the elimination of language establishing the conditions under which a child may be admitted to kindergarten and first grade in a public school. The bill retains language authorizing a school board to exclude a child under six from school if the board determines the child is unable to benefit from instruction.

School District Disaster Relief Adjustments [SF 81](#) (formerly [SSB 1013](#))

A study bill for an act relating to assisting schools to recover from disaster by changing the approval method for transfers of emergency fund moneys, by modifying certain funding provisions to relate to disaster recovery, and by allowing area education agency boards greater authority to purchase and lease-purchase property.

[HSB 23](#) is a similar bill.

School District Innovation Grant Program, Core Curriculum and Skills [SSB 1014](#)

A study bill for an act providing for the establishment of a school district innovation grant program. This bill directs the department of education to establish a school district innovation grant program, if the general assembly appropriates funds for that purpose, to promote innovation in the delivery of instruction related to the Iowa core curriculum and twenty-first century skills. The bill provides legislative intent that the school district innovation grants be used to capture promising new practice and innovation for the delivery of instruction. [HSB 25](#) is a similar bill.

Duties and Operations of DE and Local School Boards [SSB 1011](#)

A study bill for an act relating to the duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards. [HSB 22](#) is a similar bill.



“Investing in Our Children’s Future”, Afterschool Ambassador Loras Osterhaus Presentation to the Joint Senate/House Education Appropriations Subcommittee in Des Moines, February 17, 2009

Afterschool Ambassador Loras Osterhaus presented to the Joint Senate/House Education Appropriations Subcommittee in Des Moines on February 17, 2009, along with other afterschool providers and IAA staff. Below is an excerpt from his presentation.

“Recently I had the opportunity to meet with the Joint Senate/House Education Appropriations subcommittee in Des Moines to advocate for continued state funding for afterschool programs. This committee indicated strong support for afterschool programs. Even though afterschool programs at the state level received a cut in funding this year, the support is evident to maintain funding at their current levels, and when the time is appropriate, due to the economic times, possibly increase the amount of funding. Earlier this week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an additional \$50M for afterschool programs nationally, which will help many more children gain access to afterschool programs nationally, statewide as well as locally.

Our work, though, is far from complete. The need and demand for high quality after school programs on all levels continues to increase. Too many children are unsupervised between the time the school doors close and parents get home from work. Lack of supervision, structure, and academic opportunities can mean squandered opportunities for children to learn, and can leave our young people vulnerable to trouble.

Recent data from Clinton Community Schools Afterschool programs indicate the following:

- » **82% of students improved academically per teacher surveys**
- » **76% of students scored intermediate to high in math**
- » **89% of students scored intermediate to high in reading**
- » **92% of parents indicate that their child’s safety and academic support are two primary benefits of afterschool programs.**

Families in Iowa depend greatly upon after school programs. Iowa ranks first in the nation in the percentage of families with either parents (or the only parent) in the workforce. Nearly 250 students attend after school programs nightly in Clinton Community Schools Afterschool programs. This still leaves many students locally unsupervised each evening. Students are provided with up to 2 hours of after school activities, including homework assistance, arts and crafts, recreational sports, drug/alcohol prevention and other academic enrichment activities.”

As an Afterschool Ambassador, Loras keeps a close watch on all policies related to afterschool on the national, state, and local levels. If you would like more information on

afterschool programs or would like to become more involved in advocating for afterschool programs, please contact Loras Osterhaus at Clinton Community Schools at 563-243-9600 x47.



Afterschool Funding Opportunities in the Federal Stimulus

Like most interest groups, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance has been keeping a close ear to the ground regarding stimulus money available for afterschool programs. [Click here](#) to access the list of programs that will receive additional funding from the federal stimulus that may provide opportunities for afterschool funding. Also provided are suggestions on how to access the funding stream on the local level. To create a federal electronic grants application account for the US Department of Education, click [here](#). For federal grants through other departments, click [here](#).

New Resource from the Finance Project

The Finance Project is pleased to share a new resource with you: *Preparing to Take Advantage of New Programs in the Economic Stimulus Package: Considerations for Out-of-School Time Providers and Stakeholders*.

This funding brief offers a summary of key opportunities for funding afterschool programs in the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and offers advice for afterschool program leaders and directors on how to best position their organization so it is poised to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

The brief may be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/EconomicStimulus.pdf>.

Technical Assistance: Accessing Federal Stimulus Funding Through Collaboration with Workforce Training Programs

With the federal stimulus funding coming into the state soon, it will be important for afterschool program providers to be aware of opportunities to access additional funding sources. One such source may be Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding related to youth programming. The WIA Youth program was created to prepare at-risk youth (ages 14 through 24) for the workplace by providing on-the-job and skills training.

In Iowa, this program and funding stream is channeled through Regional Workforce Investment Boards. Regional Workforce Investment Boards (RWIBs) are local boards made up of leaders from business, education, labor, and workforce and training services, and city and county officials. RWIBs are charged with identifying local workforce needs, choosing local service providers and monitoring their outcomes, and providing an annual report and recommendations to the Iowa Workforce Development Board.

To find out more information about your local workforce region and Regional Workforce Investment Board, visit the Iowa Workforce Development website at <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/board/rwib.htm>. As the next few weeks progress, think about the following ways you can reach out to your local RWIB:

- » **Introduce yourself to the RWIB chair. Discuss the ways your afterschool program prepares youth for the workforce.**
- » **Ask for an opportunity to discuss potential collaboration. Do current youth programming providers need a contractor for workplace readiness skills? Do you have a skills training curriculum that you have implemented?**
- » **Share afterschool program outcomes with your local board members. Offer to share ideas and best practices when working with youth.**
- » **Maintain relationships with local workforce training programs and decision-makers. There may be potential ways to collaborate in the future as well.**



Program Spotlight: YouthBuild of Sioux City

The YouthBuild program is a federal grant opportunity through the Department of Labor that provides disadvantaged youth with job experience, educational opportunities, and workplace skills. Within the last year, the Sioux City area was the only Iowa recipient of a two-year YouthBuild grant. With the recent passage of the federal Economic Stimulus bill, there is greater opportunity for Iowa to access YouthBuild funding.

The mission of YouthBuild Sioux City is to provide a support system that assists youth and their families in fostering healthy development in preparation for success in school, work, home, and the community. Additional services provided by the program include academic classes, vocational classes, leadership development, on-the-job construction training, and job placement opportunities upon graduation.

Collaborating organizations include Goodwill Industries, Iowa Third Judicial District Juvenile Court Services, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Siouxland Habitat for Humanity, Home Builders Association of Greater Siouxland, Boys and Girls Home and Family Services, Inc., Region 12 Iowa Workforce Development and Job Training Partners, the Sioux City Community School District, and Siouxland Human Investment Partnership.

YouthBuild participants complete a four-week orientation that includes literacy assessments, review of academic records, teamwork activities, life skills training, and an introduction to work. Youth who complete the orientation receive a Certificate of Work Readiness and are eligible to enter the 11-month YouthBuild program. When participants successfully complete the program, they earn the Home Builders Institute's Pre-Apprenticeship Certification and a high school diploma or GED.

To learn more about the YouthBuild program in Sioux City, visit the program website at www.siouxcityyouthbuild.org or call Kathy Schuver at 712-258-4511 ext. 1369.

Be a Part of a Global Movement! Participate in Global Youth Service Day.

Global Youth Service Day is the largest annual service event in the world. GYSD highlights and celebrates the difference youth make in their communities year-round through community service and service-learning. On April 24-26, 2009, millions of young will participate in and lead service projects in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries around the world. Young people, working with their families, schools, community organizations, faith-based communities, and businesses, will improve their communities by addressing critical issues such as global climate change, education & illiteracy, poverty, health, hunger, and homelessness. Learn more about GYSD, download planning resources, and register your project at <http://www.GYSD.org>



If you're not already planning to participate in GYSD, there's still plenty of time! Below are links and resources that might be helpful in planning and registering a service event.

Iowa GYSD Questions

Iowa's Global Youth Service Day liaison is Michael Johnston. If you have questions about planning a Global Youth Service Day event, please contact Michael at moj@iastate.edu.

Plan Your GYSD Project

- » Review potential project ideas.
- » Find existing volunteer opportunities. <http://gysd.org/plan>

Download Planning Resources

- » Use planning resources - GYSD Project Planning Toolkit, GYSD Service-Learning Curriculum Guide, Semester of Service Strategy Guide, issue modules, tip sheets, etc. <http://gysd.org/resources>
- » Listen to podcasts of GYSD Project Planning webinar series. <http://gysd.org/podcast>
- » Request free GYSD Posters and Semester of Service Strategy guides to be shipped to you. <http://gysd.org/resources/request>

Find Funding Opportunities

Browse potential grant opportunities to support your project. <http://gysd.org/plan/funding>

Register and Find GYSD Projects

- » Post your GYSD project.
- » Register your GYSD project on the global event map. Registering on the map will help Youth Service America direct volunteers, media, and elected officials to your project. <http://gysd.org/node/add/gysdevent>

Find a GYSD Project

Search for GYSD projects by U.S. State, by country, by issue area, or by joint day of service. <http://gysd.org/map/>

Share and Promote Your GYSD Project

- » Contact media and public officials
- » Use the Youth Policy Action Center tool to let the media and your elected officials know about your project and ask them to promote and/or participate in your project. <http://gysd.org/share/media>

Download Promotional Tools

Download web banners, logos (including logos in different languages), widgets, and more to promote GYSD and your project. <http://gysd.org/share/promotional-tools>

Connect to GYSD on the Web

- » Show you're participating in GYSD on Facebook. <http://gysd.org/share/networks>
- » Learn how to take high quality pictures and videos and share them on Flickr. <http://gysd.org/share/flickr>
- » Get Twitter updates. <http://gysd.org/share/sms>



UC Irvine Professor Provides Resources on Afterschool programs

UC Irvine Professor Deborah Vandell has done extensive research on afterschool programs/ out-of-school time, early child care, and Children's Social Relationship. She serves as the Chair of the Department of Education at the University of California Irvine. She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior.

The author of more than 140 articles, Professor Vandell, for the last 20 years, has studied the effects of afterschool programs, extracurricular activities, and self-care with a particular focus on low-income children of color. The research is widely cited as evidence of the benefits of after-school programs and activities and also been used to inform policy decisions in after-school programming and **early childhood**.

Given below are just a few titles of her work.

- » Adolescent out-of-school activities (in press)
- » Features of after-school program quality: Differential association with children's functioning in middle childhood (in press)
- » Engagement in after-school program activities: Quality of experience from the perspective of participants (2007)

Professor Vandell also serves on various advisory boards, including Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the US Department of Education. To learn more about Professor Vandell and her extensive work in afterschool, [click here](#).

Upcoming Professional Development, Events and Funding Opportunities

Youth Work Methods Training Series Provided by the United Way of Central Iowa

The Youth Work Methods Training Series consists of ten two-hour workshops designed to address needs identified by the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool. These workshops cover issues related to point of service quality and focus on the "how to's" of youth work. Everyone is welcome to register for the trainings; having a YPQA completed is not a prerequisite to attend. Participants are not required to attend each workshop in the series. The trainings are free, but registration is required to attend and is limited to 25 attendees. Please note each training is two hours long and has been scheduled around the lunch hour, but lunch is not provided.

Register via the link below. You will need to create a user name and password, and note that 10,000 Hours is not required to register for the Youth Work Methods Trainings.

[Click here to register for any of the Youth Work Method Trainings](#)



Applications Now Being Accepted for Business Horizons 2009

Business Horizons (BH) is a week-long experience, sponsored by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation. BH will be held at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa (12 miles south of Des Moines) on July 26-31, 2009.

This unique program gives students an opportunity to gain an understanding of economics, the free enterprise system, entrepreneurship, and a wide variety of careers while working in a team environment, developing a product from junk and duct tape (creative types love this part), running a mock business, developing a marketing plan (including a TV infomercial) and presenting that plan to potential investors. It is also about improving leadership skills, personal development, living on a college campus and meeting new friends from across the state.

Each student accepted will receive a scholarship (a \$750 value) provided by an Iowa business, organization, or an individual to pay for most of the cost of delivering the Business Horizons program. **Students pay only \$250** (if received by May 15), which covers all meals, housing, conference materials and activities. After April 17 the registrations fee is still only \$300. If a student is an excellent candidate but unable to pay the registration fee, please contact the [ABI Foundation](#).

The deadline for applications is May 15 for priority consideration.

Students will be accepted after this date if space is available. To learn more, [click here](#).

Iowa Women's Foundation Grants Available

The Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) is a nonprofit, grant-making foundation dedicated to expanding opportunities and promoting positive social change. Our mission is to improve the lives of Iowa women and girls through the power of philanthropy, advocacy and collaboration. During the past fifteen years, IWF has awarded over ¼ of a million dollars in grants to 84 projects in over 65 counties throughout Iowa. Any non-profit (501 (c) (3) tax-exempt) organizations or grassroots groups serving women and girls in Iowa are eligible to receive the grants.

Projects that receive funding include:

- » Advocate on issues that lead to long-term change for women and girls.
- » Employ strategies designed to address causes of systemic, societal problems.
- » Address activities that enable women and/or girls as a group to achieve economic self sufficiency.
- » Offer strategies that develop positive self-images for young and adolescent girls.
- » Promote prevention, early intervention and enrichment activities.
- » Are creative, innovative and new to the community they serve in Iowa.
- » Increase the range of choices and expand opportunities for women and girls.

- » Activities that work toward the elimination of discrimination.
- » Have a strong possibility for replication or benefiting other service providers addressing the same clients or similar needs.
- » Promote the interconnectedness of issues across states, regions, or countries between the women in Iowa and the global world.



The application is due on **Friday, May 29, 2009**. To learn more and access the application, [click here](#).

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous American to remind us why we do the work we do.

“A child is a person who is going to carry on whatever you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. Your books are going to be judged, accepted, or condemned by him. The fate of humanity is in his hands. So it might be well to pay him some attention.”

- **Abraham Lincoln**